Vaidyanathan Committee

†4211. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee for revival of institutions providing long term cooperative loans in rural areas and it has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to implement recommendations of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan to revive Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS). The Task force has submitted its report. The key recommendations of the Task Force, *inter-alia*, include:

= A Financial package of Rs. 3074 crore for the LTCCS to wipe out accumulated losses

= Technical assistance including installation of a Computerised Standard Accounting System.

= Development of internal control, monitoring and information system; and

= Training and capacity building of the staff and elected representatives.

Based on the recommendations of the Report, the Government of India (GoI) has finalised a revival package to strengthen Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS) in consultation with the State Governments.

The Government has provided Rs. 600 crore in the budget 2008-09 for initiating the implementation of the package.

Income tax exemption for Andhra Pradesh State Sports Development Funds

4212. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to grant 100 per cent income tax exemption orders under sub-section (2)(iii) of clause (9) of the section 80G of the Income Tax Act to all the Andhra Pradesh State Sports Development funds;

(b) if so, the silent features of the proposed amendment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Section 80G of the Income-tax Act provides a 100 per cent deduction to donations made to certain funds of national importance. The Andhra Pradesh State Sports Development Fund does not qualify as a fund of national importance. Therefore, there is no proposal to grant this tax benefit to donations made to this fund.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.